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Advisory Announcement

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Winter Seasons Closed for Nelchina Caribou Hunts RC561, RC562, CC001, DC485

(Glennallen) – Winter hunting seasons for Nelchina caribou Tier I hunts RC561, RC562, and CC001 as well as the drawing permit hunt DC485 are closed by emergency order. The harvest quota of 1,600 caribou has been reached.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game's summer 2021 estimate for the Nelchina herd is approximately 38,400 caribou. To prevent overharvest, maintain adequate sex ratios within the herd, and maintain the herd within abundance objectives, the department calculated a harvestable surplus of 1,600 caribou. Harvest reporting for the fall Nelchina hunts indicates that the harvestable surplus has been taken:

Hunt	Number of 2021 Permits	2021 Fall Harvest
YC495	200	56
DC475	50	18
DC485	2,000	270
RC561	2,919	487
RC562	4,181	483
CC001	903	177
Federal		149
		1,640

The youth draw hunt YC495 was open for its regularly scheduled 5-day season and does not have a winter hunting season in regulation. The August Tier I hunt RC561 closed by emergency order on August 17, when the quota of 350 caribou had been met. The resident draw hunt DC485 closed by emergency order on August 31, when the quota of 225 caribou had been met. The September Tier I hunt RC562 closed by emergency order on September 9 when the quota of 350 caribou had been met. The nonresident draw hunt DC475 closed on the regularly scheduled date of September 20 and does not have a winter hunting season in regulation. The Community Subsistence Harvest hunt CC001 closed on the regularly scheduled date of September 20.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game's fall 2021 estimate for the Nelchina herd is approximately 35,500 caribou. Adult cow and adult bull estimates are at or below the fall objectives and additional animals above the lower abundance objective of 35,000 are calves and do not represent additional harvestable surplus for the winter hunt. The majority of the Nelchina herd has migrated out of Unit 13. Small, localized groups remaining in Unit 13 are protected from overharvest with the closure of all state winter hunting seasons.

All RC561, RC562, CC001 and DC485 permit holders are required to report on their unsuccessful or unused permits within 15 days of this announcement. Permit holders can file hunt reports online at <http://adfg.alaska.gov>, by phone at (907) 822-3461, or in person at the Glennallen or Palmer Fish and Game offices.

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